

REPORT

FOIA b3b

SUBJECT: PEACE CORPSMAN RELEASE

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ONE, ORR/CSS, DDP, CSDO,OSI, Mr. Sheldon, [REDACTED], SAVA, DD/S&T.

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CA127

CA127 MOSCOW, OCT. 1 (AP) - THE SOVIET UNION IS EXPECTED TO RELEASE SOON AN AMERICAN PEACE CORPSMAN ARRESTED THREE WEEKS AGO ON A BORDER VIOLATION CHARGE, INFORMANTS SAID TODAY. ASKED ABOUT THIS, THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION AND THE U.S. EMBASSY DECLINED COMMENT. EMBASSY OFFICIALS DREW A VEIL OF SECRECY AROUND THE CASE OF THOMAS R. DAWSON AFTER AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT TALKED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ABOUT IT THURSDAY. THE DIPLOMAT MADE THE EMBASSY'S THIRD APPEAL FOR DAWSON'S RELEASE. THE RELEASED HAS NOT CLEAR.

WHEN AND WHERE DAWSON MIGHT BE RELEASED WAS NOT CLEAR. HE COULD BE BROUGHT TO MOSCOW FROM BAKU, WHERE HIS CASE HAS BEEN UNDER INVESTIGATION, OR HE COULD BE PUT BACK ACROSS THE IRANIAN BORDER.

IRANIAN BORDER. DAWSON, 24, FROM ANNAPOLIS, MD., HAS BEEN WORKING AS A PEACE CORPS TEACHER OF ENGLISH IN AN IRANIAN TOWN 40 MILES FROM THE SOVIET BORDER. HE WAS SEIZED SEPT. 11 WHEN HE STROLLED ACROSS THE ASTARA-CHAI RIVER THAT FORMS THE BORDER NEAR THE CASPIAN SEA.

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